

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Three sheets drawings

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because (1) reference numerals 7 and 8 are used to identify variations of the same features and (2) the inner face recited in claim 6, line 10, is not illustrated. Regarding the former issue, the drawings and specification have been corrected/amended to overcome this objection. Regarding the latter objection, Applicant notes that the inner face is shown in Fig. 6, for example. Specifically, according to claim 6, the inner face is provided on inner spherical face joint portion 82 and forms the inner ball guide groove 821. This is clearly illustrated in Fig. 6. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of Fig. 6 in which the inner face is identified.

The Examiner has also objected to the incorporation by reference to JIS is not proper. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that the subject matter incorporated by reference is not essential subject matter as the Examiner asserts. Applicant conducted a search on the PTO website of patents that reference the JIS standard and received 36,940 hits. Certainly, the reference to JIS in the specification is not improper.

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadota, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,488,588) in view of *SAE UNIVERSAL JOINT AND DRIVESHAFT DESIGN MANUAL* (SAE Manual). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Kadota fails to disclose first and second connecting base portions which are provided at both sides of the joint, as required by amended claim 6. By providing the connecting base portions on both sides of the joint, the operator can assemble the components easily. In addition, the through hole recited in claim 6 makes the assembly step easier.

As shown in Figs. 6, 9, 11, 12 and 14 of the application, the through hole is formed between the cylindrical hole 816 and the spherical space 823, that is, the hole 816 and space 823 are communicated via the through hole. At the time of forming the spherical surface, the tool can access from both sides (cylindrical hole 816 side and male joint inserting side), thus, the grinding process on the inner peripheral of the spherical surface can be made easier.

Please also see explanation of fourth embodiment of the specification.

Kadota fails to disclose the claimed through hole formed between the cylindrical hole of the second connecting base portion. The spherical space of Kadota is a closed space. Thus, the grinding process is difficult.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 6 and its dependent claim 11 patentably distinguish over the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 6

